Rothesay Elementary School

Parent School Support Committee 2016/2017

Minutes: Tuesday, May 9th, 2017

1. **Call to Order**

 Meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Present: Charlene Carroll (Principal), Jonathon Kierstead (teacher representative), Kim MacDonald, Misty Pilgrim, Wendy Romeo, Nathalie McClune, Ocean Peters, Stephen Smith, and Amanda Higgins.

Absent: Belinda Kumar

2. **Review of last Month’s Minutes**

 Minutes were sent to the group by email earlier last week. A few changes were made. The minutes of last month’s meeting were accepted by the group tonight. The minutes will be posted on the school website.

3. **May/June School Report**

**-** Friday May 12 Volunteer Tea from 9:30-10:30 AM. 25 people have RSVP’d. Some grade 5 students will be performing music pieces for entertainment.

 - Monday May 15 the province has cancelled the Grade 4 Provincial Field Testing Assessments.

- Wednesday May 17 the RES Drama group performs “Annie” at the Elementary Drama Festival at KVHS.

 - Friday May 19 NBTA/AEFNB AGM – no school for students

 - Monday May 22 Victoria Day – no school for students

 - Tuesday May 23 Grade 2 Provincial Assessments begin

 Jump Rope for Heart Kickoff

Grade 5 Musical Sharing – grade 5 students have opportunity to perform musical pieces for grade 3, 4 and 5 students.

* Sunday May 26 – Courtyard cleanup. Families of RES can volunteer to help clean the green spaces from 1-3 pm. Grade 4 students raised $1600.00 through student led projects. They plan to use this money to have greenhouses built on these green spaces. The school was successful in receiving a food grant to help out with the costs of building the greenhouses and to purchase seeds to grow. This project will start next year.
* Friday June 2 – Kindergarten Transition Day. Students entering kindergarten in the fall will come to school and current kindergarten students will stay home. So far 65 children are registered for kindergarten this fall.
* Tuesday June 13 – Olympic Field Day Home and School BBQ. This is event is earlier this year as the physical education teachers are organizing a huge Track and Field event for grade 5 students the following week.
* Wednesday June 14 – Grade 5 students visit Harry Miller Middle School and Rothesay Park Middle School at 10 AM. At some point this week the Educational Services team from Rothesay Elementary school will meet with the Educational Service team of both the Middle Schools to share information about concerns, resources or needs of students entering into grade 6 in the fall.
* Tuesday June 20 – Hampton Education Centre Grade 5 Track and Field Events.
* Friday June 23 – Last day of school for students.
* The school has not yet received any information on staffing for the 2017/2018 school year as of yet.
* Mrs. McLenaghan returns from mat leave on May 15. (Grade 4)

4. School Fees for School Supplies

 - One team of teachers has approached Charlene Carroll about piloting the idea of charging a school fee and teachers would be responsible for purchasing school supplies. Mrs. Carroll was looking for feedback from this committee about the idea.

 - Other schools in the district have already done this. It appears to be supported by parent groups.

 - Once the fee is paid, parents will not be asked to purchase school supplies throughout the year.

 - The school has to itemize and account for every cent that is paid to purchase school supplies. The school is accountable to parents.

 - Teachers are able to buy school supplies in bulk, or from supply companies at a cheaper rate.

 - Teachers may have to purchase items over the summer out of pocket, but they are reimbursed for these purchases.

 - All students will have the same quality product

 - One less thing for parents to have to worry about.

 - Parents will still be responsible for indoor shoes and possibly zip lock bags.

 - Fairvale Elementary School PSSC had a survey monkey sent out to all parents at the school prior to making the change to school fees. It was suggested by a committee member that we do the same thing.

 - ACTION: Wendy Romeo is going to contact PSSC member of Fairvale Elementary School to find out more about survey monkey. We need to ask one question to parents: Would you prefer to pay a fee for school supplies at the beginning of the school year instead of buying school supplies. Yes or No. Wendy will send the survey monkey link to Charlene Carroll. Charlene will have it sent to all parents via synervoice/email. We need to suggest a price to parents when the survey monkey is sent out.

5. Grade 4 Math Benchmark Data

 The province is not collecting data this year on any grade level math assessment. The district decided to implement an exercise to capture Grade 4 Math Benchmark data. This consisted of 20 multiple choice math questions and was given to grade 4 students in March 2017. This exercise tested students on their understanding of 14 strands of math that the Grade 4 Curriculum covers. These 14 strands can be organized under 3 main topics – numbers, shape and space, and patterns and relations. The results show what the strands the students are doing well in and what strands students are struggling with. Under the category of Numbers – students struggled with numbers up to 10, 000, adding and subtracting large numbers and fractions. Under the category of shape and space students struggled with area perimeter. And under the category of pattern and relations students struggled with the unknown variable (ex. 3x+6=25 what is x). 5 out of 14 strands students had trouble. This benchmark can help teachers to determine what areas of math needs more work with students, where the focus of the curriculum should be, maybe show that certain strands like area perimeter may need to be covered in the curriculum earlier, or review concepts from earlier grades before moving onto new math ideas. One reason certain strands were low in scoring is that the classes might not have taught or reviewed these strands prior to the test date.

6. New Business – members who want to remain on PSSC for 2017/2018 school year.

 Amanda Higgins, Kim MacDonald, Misty Pilgrim, Nathalie McClune, Ocean Peters, and Stephen Smith.

7. **Meeting** **Adjourned** at 7:15 PM. Next meeting will be arranged for early October 2017.